

Alternative pharmaceutical gum from Cashew nut

Cashew nut (*Anacardium occidentale* Linn.) is rich in vitamin C and sugars. The gum obtained from its stem bark is recommended in leprosy, ringworm, corns, hair problems and obstinate ulcers. Ibezim and others at CDRI Lucknow have studied the suspending properties of cashew gum, a white powder, having a low ash content.

The gum has been found to possess good suspending properties. In view of the rising costs of pharmaceutical gums like Acacia and Veerum[®] and their



fluctuating availability, cashew gum can be exploited for use in pharmaceutical suspensions and other formulations (Ibezim *et al*, *J Sci Industr Res*, 2000, 59, 1038).

Horticulture

Early season fruit production of Carambola

Carambola (*Averrhoa carambola* Linn.) bears fruits mainly on the canopy periphery and the delicate skin



is easily damaged (wind-scar) during windy conditions. Pruning as well as fruit drop caused by strong winds, stimulates rebloom of Carambola trees. Experiments conducted on 'Arkin' variety in southern Florida advocated crop removal in November or December and increased early bloom and the amount of early fruit produced in the summer. De-fruited trees produced an average of 48 kg/ tree of early fruit, harvested in July, whereas non-de-fruited trees produced an average of only 5 kg per tree (Nunez-Elisea & Crane, *Scientia Hort*, 2000, 86, 115).

Application of paclobutrazol (cultural) to obtain mangoes regularly

The mango cultivars which are irregular in flowering and fruiting in Andaman have been treated by paclobutrazol (cultural) 5g/tree, once in July as soil drench; it gave good results [ICAR News, 2001, 7(1), 12].